

Amendments to the Claims

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for cleaning ~~containers~~ rail tank cars containing a chemical comprising the steps of:

providing a ~~container~~ rail tank car ~~disposed on a mobile railcar~~ consisting essentially of a quantity of a chemical therein wherein the ~~container~~ rail tank car has a plurality of valves for attaching a plurality of pipes thereto wherein the chemical is selected from the group consisting of chlorine gas and sulfur dioxide gas;

providing a dry input gas for injecting into the ~~container~~ rail tank car;

heating said dry input gas to a temperature of between about 100° F and 300°

F;

providing a tank having a neutralizing material contained therein connected to the ~~container~~ rail tank car;

injecting the ~~container~~ rail tank car with a discrete quantity of the heated input gas to form an input gas/chemical mixture;

removing the input gas/chemical mixture from the ~~container~~ rail tank car;

injecting the input gas/chemical mixture into the tank for neutralizing the chemical;

releasing the input gas from the tank;

~~repeating the injection of~~ injecting further discrete quantities of heated input gas to form further input gas/chemical mixtures;

removing the further quantities of input gas/chemical mixtures from the ~~container~~ rail tank car;

injecting the further input gas/chemical mixtures into the tank for neutralizing the chemical until the level of chemical within the ~~container~~ rail tank car has reached a predetermined level; and

releasing the further quantities of input gas from the tank.

2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
providing a vacuum pump attached to the ~~container~~ rail tank car; and
removing the chemical or the input gas/chemical mixture via the vacuum pump.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the input gas is nitrogen gas.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
providing an input gas tank attached to the ~~container~~ rail tank car; and
heating the input gas prior to injection into the ~~container~~ rail tank car.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the input gas is air.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the air is dried via a dehumidifier.
9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
attaching an input pipe to the ~~container~~ rail tank car via a first valve; and
feeding the input gas into the ~~container~~ rail tank car via the input pipe.
10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

inspecting the ~~container~~ rail tank car prior to removing the chemical contained therein.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

searching the ~~container~~ rail tank car for leaks prior to removing the chemical contained therein.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

gauging the pressure within the ~~container~~ rail tank car prior to removing the chemical contained therein.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of:

injecting a quantity of input gas into the ~~container~~ rail tank car if the pressure within the ~~container~~ rail tank car is about 0 psi prior to removing the chemical contained therein.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the tank neutralizes both chlorine gas and sulfur dioxide gas.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the tank contains a neutralizing material selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, calcium hydroxide, sodium sulfite, sodium thiosulfite, ferrous chloride and solid bed absorbents.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

providing a control panel for controlling the injection of the input gas and removal of the chemical or the input gas/chemical mixture from the ~~container~~ rail tank car.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of:

synchronizing the injection of the input gas and removal of the chemical or the input gas/chemical mixture from the ~~container~~ rail tank car via the controller.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

providing an input gas line attached to an input valve on the ~~container~~ rail tank car;

providing an output line attached to an output valve on the ~~container~~ rail tank car;

opening the input valve to allow the input gas to flow into the ~~container~~ rail tank car while the output valve is closed;

closing the input valve; and

opening the output valve to remove the input gas and chemical mixture from the ~~container~~ rail tank car.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18 further comprising the steps of:

providing a vacuum pump attached to the output line; and

activating the vacuum pump after the output valve is opened to remove the input gas and chemical mixture from the ~~container~~ rail tank car.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the chemical contained within the ~~container~~ rail tank car is chlorine gas and further comprising the step of:

injecting the ~~container~~ rail tank car with the input gas and removing the input gas/chemical mixture a plurality of times so the chlorine gas concentration within the ~~container~~ rail tank car is about 0.5 ppm or below.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the chemical contained within the ~~container~~ rail tank car is sulfur dioxide gas and further comprising the step of:

injecting the ~~container~~ rail tank car with the input gas and removing the input gas/chemical mixture a plurality of times so the sulfur dioxide concentration within the ~~container~~ rail tank car is about 2.0 ppm or below.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

heating the input gas to a temperature of about 200°F.